

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05

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O R 061210Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5839

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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FOR EUR/WE BARBOUR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NL, US

SUBJECT: DUTCH REACTION TO VIETNAM EVENTS

1. IT IS TOO EARLY TO EVALUATE WHAT THE MORE LASTING  
DUTCH ATTITUDES WILL BE TO THE END OF US INVOLVEMENT  
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IN VIETNAM. CURRENT REACTIONS RUN THE GAMUT FROM GENUINE

CHAGRIN AND CONCERN OVER INABILITY OF THE US TO PREVENT THE ELIMINATION OF A NON-COMMUNIST REGIME IN SOUTH VIETNAM TO SATISFACTION ON THE RADICAL LEFT WITH THE US "DEFEAT" AND THE COMBINED VICTORY OF THE DRV AND THE PROG. WE BELIEVE THAT MANY DUTCHMEN, INCLUDING SOME WHO ARE BASICALLY FRIENDLY, FEEL A SENSE OF RELIEF THAT US INVOLVEMENT IN WHAT WAS GENERALLY SEEN AS A WONG CAUSE, AT LEAST IN RECENT YEARS, IS NOW ENDED. SOME MODERATE LEFTISTS ARGUE THAT VIETNAM, BESIDE BEING AN "IMMORAL WAR" WAS A LOSING CAUSE FROM THE START, AND THAT THE US AND ITS NATO ALLIES WILL BE BETTER SERVED NOW THAT THE US IS FREE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MATERIAL BURDEN OF VIETNAM.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS HAS BEEN FULL OF THE DAY-TO-DAY EVENTS OF THE FALL OF PHNOM PENH, AND SAIGON, THE EVACUATION OF US PERSONNEL, AND THE US RELIEF EFFORTS FOR REFUGEES, THERE HAS BEEN REMARKABLY LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT. WE HAVE SEEN NO EXPRESSION OF WORRY THAT THE EVENTS IN VIETNAM MAY SIGNAL A SPUR TO ISOLATIONISM OR A DIMINUTION OF THE US COMMITMENT TO ITS ALLIES ELSEWHERE. SUCH A CONCERN PROBABLY DOES EXIST HERE TO SOME EXTENT, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, MANY DUTCHMEN WILL VIEW THE ENDING OF MASSIVE US INVOLVEMENT AS A WELCOME CHANGE WHICH WILL PERMIT AMERICANS TO FOCUS AGAIN ON EUROPE WHERE THEIR TRUE INTERESTS PUTATIVELY LIE.  
GOULD

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## Message Attributes

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